

Proposed changes to the **State Regulations Implementing Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** **Summary of Comments and Responses from the Department (DESE)** **February 2010**

Section	Page	DESE Proposed Change	Reason for Proposed Change	Summary of Comments	DESE Response
Cover	1	Replace Cover	Clarification	None	Changes: None
A	6	Definitions – Add Family Child Care Assistance and definition as an early intervention service (EIS)	Previously omitted from 2006 State Plan	None	Changes: None
F	15	Added three (3) new paragraphs describing “opt out”	OSEP Requirement	None	Changes: None
F	15	Change transition meeting timelines from “six months” to “four months (or 120 days)” prior to the child’s third birth date.	Align Part C transition and Part B referral timelines	Commenters had concerns about how this change would affect processing First Steps children with summer birthdays and said other school districts have the same concerns. They are concerned ECSE will not have enough time to evaluate and have an IEP in place by the child’s 3 rd birthday.	DESE agrees and will change back to the former language: “Six months prior to the child’s third birth date...”
VIII	29	Personnel Standards – ABA Implementer	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	Commenters stated that having an ABA Implementer supervised by a Behavioral Specialist rather than by an ABA Program Consultant was confusing.	DESE agrees and will change back to the former language: “Must have ongoing supervision and training by an ABA program consultant.”
VIII	29	Personnel Standards – Change Title of “ ABA Program Consultants ” to “Behavioral Specialist.”	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	<p>Commenters disagreed with the deletion of ABA from the title and believed parents of children with autism would be alarmed by the proposed change.</p> <p>One commenter wondered if this change would weaken or change the current classification of ABA Program Consultant. Another commenter stated that ABA is a methodology and a behavior specialist is not.</p>	DESE agrees and will change back to the former language in the Title: “ABA Program Consultants.”
		Changed (added or deleted) responsibilities of ABA Program Consultant.	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	None	Changes: None
		Changed educational qualifications of ABA Program Consultant from “Bachelor’s or Master’s	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	<p>A commenter asked why a bachelor’s or master’s degree wasn’t listed in educational qualifications.</p> <p>Another commenter wanted a definition of</p>	DESE agrees and will change back to the former language in Educational Qualifications: “Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in human services field.”

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		degree in human services field” to “Degree equivalent to a Special Instructor, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, or Speech Language Pathologist.		“degree equivalent.”	
VIII	30	Personnel Standards – Changed (added or deleted) responsibilities of Counselor, Licensed Professional.	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	None	Changes: None
VIII	30	Personnel Standards – Changed (deleted/added) responsibilities of Dietitian.	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	None	Changes: None
VIII	30	Deleted Intake or Service Coordinator Associate from Personnel Standards.	N/A	None	Changes: None
VIII	31	Personnel Standards – Changed (added/deleted) responsibilities of Occupational Therapist.	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	None	Changes: None
		Added educational qualifications: “Bachelor’s Degree (prior to 2007) and “Master’s Degree (effective 2007) to Occupational Therapist.	Requirement of MO Healing Board of Arts	None	Changes: None
VIII	31	Personnel Standards – Optometrist Added to responsibilities.	Previously omitted from State Plan	None	Changes: None
VIII	31	Personnel Standards – Added examples of Other Early Intervention Provider “(e.g., Assistive Technology provider, Translator, Transportation provider)	Clarification	None	Changes: None
VIII	32	Changed (added/deleted) responsibilities of Physical Therapist and clarified effective dates of educational qualification.	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	None	Changes: None

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VIII	32	Changed (added/deleted) responsibilities of Psychologists .	Clarification	None	Changes: None
VIII	32	Personnel Standards – Deleted “Intake or” from Service Coordinator	Differentiation unnecessary	None	Changes: None
		Changed educational qualifications of Service Coordinator	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	One commenter suggested that a degree in Counseling with the appropriate experience should be added to the educational qualifications section.	DESE agrees that a Counseling degree with appropriate experience should be added to the educational qualifications for a Service Coordinator and will revise the Educational Qualifications to include Counseling.
VIII	33	Personnel Standards – Social Worker Changed (deleted/added) responsibilities	Clarification	None	Changes: None
VIII	33	Personnel Standards – Speech Language Pathologist Changed (added/deleted) responsibilities.	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	None	Changes: None
VIII	33	Personnel Standards – Speech Language Pathology Associate Changed (added/deleted) responsibilities.	Clarification	One commenter suggested adding Temporary license issued by the Board of Healing Arts while working toward the completion requirements for Certificate of Clinical Competency to the Certificates or License Column.	DESE declines to make this change since the Certificates/Licensure column already states: “Working towards Certificate of Clinical Competency for licensure by State Board of Registration for the Healing Arts.” Changes: None
VIII	32	Personnel Standards – Special Instructor Changed (added/deleted) responsibilities; educational qualifications; and changed Certificates/Licenses	Alignment with early intervention teaming (EIT) model	One commenter requested adding autism to educational qualifications of a special instructor.	DESE declines to add autism to educational qualifications of Special Instructor. Changes: None
VIII	33	Personnel Standards – Added two (2) new Titles: Special Instructor-Deaf/Hearing Impaired and Special Instructor-Blind/Partially Sighted with responsibilities	Clarification	One commenter stated that to be consistent with the educational qualifications of other Special Instructor, “or Master’s degree” should be added.	DESE declines to change the educational qualifications from “Bachelor’s Degree” because a BA is the only degree that is needed for an individual to be enrolled in First Steps if they have the proper certification in Deaf/Hearing Impaired or Blind/Partially Sighted. Changes: None
XII	49	Policies and Procedures Related to Financial	Clarification	None	Changes: None

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		Matters – deleted Family Cost Participation (FCP) Charts and added website where they can be accessed.			
Appendix	56	Deleted “Appendix B Notice of Availability of Applications and Public Hearings”	No Longer Necessary	None	Changes: None
		Entire Document Throughout the document, minor wording and editing changes have been made for clarification.	Clarification	None	Changes: None